

Grooming A Shih Tzu (for New Owners)

Cheat Sheet

New Shih Tzu owners will need to go shopping to purchase a few basic grooming tools to help keep their Shih Tzu looking and feeling their best.

Shopping List:

- soft bristle brush (daily brushing)
- metal comb for removing tangles (check daily)
- plier-type nail clippers (every 2-3 weeks)
- 4-5" face/paw scissors, 7-8" leg scissors (every 2 weeks)
- shampoo and conditioner (every month)
- Kwik-Stop styptic powder (in case you cut the nail too short)



If you plan to keep your Shih Tzu clipped in a puppy clip yourself, you will need to purchase a good quality electric clipper for canines, such as the Andis, as well as a 4FC Ceramic Edge blade.

The puppy cut is the easiest, most low maintenance type of cut for a Shih Tzu who is an active, companion dog.

Another good reason for keeping your Shih Tzu's coat clipped in a puppy cut is that they will look forever like a cute puppy.

As well, when the coat is kept short, it will be much easier for you to bath, brush and check for any irritants caught in the coat.



Always bath your Shih Tzu before clipping, and in order to get a cut that looks like Boris above, you will cut with the clipper following the growth of the coat, which will leave a 1/4" coat.

You will be able to clip most of the legs with the 4FC blade, however, for the more sensitive lower legs and feet, you will need to trim with a sharp pair of (7-8") grooming scissors.

You will also need to regularly trim around their feet, and your Shih Tzu's eyes with a short (4-5") pair of blunt tipped scissors in order to keep the hair out of their eyes.

In the summer, or if you live in warmer climates and you want the coat a little shorter (1/8"), you can cut against the growth of the coat with the same 4FC blade, which will leave enough hair so that your Shih Tzu will still be completely covered to protect them from sunburn.

If you will be taking your Shih Tzu to a professional groomer, you will want to make an appointment every six to eight weeks.